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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ... ANNUAL SESSION
1903

By

Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina

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# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# Farmers' State Alliance

OF

# NORTH CAROLINA,

HELD NEAR

HILLSBORO, N. C.,

AUGUST 11 AND 12, 1903.

JOHN GRAHAM, PRESIDENT, Warrenton, N. C.
T. B. PARKER, SECRETARY-TREASURER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C.:
MUTUAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1903.

# NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE and MECHANIC ARTS

## WEST - RALEIGH, - N. C.

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# LIST OF OFFICERS.

ELECTED AUGUST, 1903.

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PRESIDENT:

JOHN GRAHAM.....Warrenton, N. C.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

H. D. EGERTON.....Ingleside, N. C.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

T. B. PARKER.....Raleigh, N. C.

LECTURER:

H. M. CATES.....Swepsonville, N. C.

CHAPLAIN:

G. W. P. CATES.....Rock Spring, N. C.

STEWARD:

J. C. BAIN.....Wade, N. C.

DOORKEEPER:

GEORGE T. LANE.....Greensboro, N. C.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

R. H. LANE.....Aurora, N. C.

STATE BUSINESS AGENT:

T. B. PARKER.....Raleigh, N. C.

TRUSTEE B. A. FUND:

W. A. GRAHAM.....Machpelah, N. C.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. W. DENMARK, *Chairman*.....Raleigh, N. C.
JOHN GRAHAM.....Warrenton, N. C.
DR. J. E. PERSON.....Pikeville, N. C.
T. J. OLDHAM.....Teer, N. C.
W. B. FLEMING.....Ridgeway, N. C.

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## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

T. P. JOHNSTON, *Chairman*.....Salisbury, N. C.
J. M. MITCHELL.....Goldsboro, N. C.
JOHN KNOX HUGHES.....Hillsboro, N. C.

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

# NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

Amended at Hillsboro, N. C., August 11 and 12, 1903.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR STATE ALLIANCE.

1. Calling roll by counties—each delegate answering to his name, who will thereupon present his credentials to the Secretary.
2. Reading of the daily Minutes.
3. Appointment of Committees.
4. Reports of Officers.
5. Reports of Committees.
6. Motions and Resolutions.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Installation of Officers.

## DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

Whereas, The general condition of our country imperatively demands unity of action on the part of the laboring classes, reformation and economy, and the dissemination of principles best calculated to encourage and foster agricultural and mechanical pursuits; encouraging the toiling masses, leading them in the road to prosperity, and providing a just and fair remuneration for labor, a just exchange for our commodities, and the best means of securing to the laboring classes the greatest amount of good; we hold to the principle that all monopolies are dangerous to the best interest of our country, tending to enslave a free people and subvert and finally overthrow the great principles purchased to the fathers of American liberty. We, therefore, adopt the following as our declaration of principles:

1. To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit.
2. To endorse the motto, "In things essential, unity; and in all things, charity."
3. To develop a better state, mentally, morally, socially and financially.
4. To create a better understanding for sustaining civil officers in maintaining law and order.

5. To constantly strive to secure entire harmony and good will among all mankind and brotherly love among ourselves.

6. To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices, and unhealthy rivalry, and all selfish ambition.

7. The brightest jewels which it garners are the tears of widows and orphans, and its imperative commands are to visit the homes where larcerated hearts are bleeding; to assuage the suffering of a brother or sister; bury the dead; care for the widows and educate the orphans; to exercise charity towards offenders; to construe words and deeds in their most favorable light, granting honesty of purpose and good intention to others; and to protect the principles of the Alliance unto death. Its laws are reason and equity; its cardinal doctrines inspire purity of thought and life; its intentions are "peace on earth and good will towards men."

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# CONSTITUTION.

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## ARTICLE I.

### MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. This body shall be known as the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina, and shall have power to make its own Constitution and By-Laws and Rules of Order and Business.

Sec. 2. It shall be composed of one delegate from each County Alliance containing 2,000 members or less, and an additional delegate for every 1,000 members in excess of 2,000, its officers, Executive and Judiciary Committees and District Lecturers: Provided, however, that none but delegates be allowed to vote except in case of a tie, when the President shall have the casting vote. It shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Business Agent, Lecturer, Steward, Chaplain, Doorkeeper, Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall hold office for twelve months—except the Executive Committee, who shall hold office for five years, one member being elected at each annual session, or until their successors are elected and installed, when the retiring officers shall be honorary members for that session only. The Trustee of the Business Agency Fund shall be an officer of the Alliance. All members of Subordinate Alliances in good standing are eligible to office in the State Alliance.

Sec. 3. A County Alliance shall be organized in each county when there are three or more Subordinate Alliances in the county, to be composed of delegates from the Subordinate Alliances in such ratio as each County Alliance may elect, but not less than one delegate for each ten members.

Sec. 4. A Subordinate Alliance shall not be organized with less

than five members, nor nearer than three miles by a direct line to an Alliance in the same county, except by consent of two-thirds of the members of such Alliance or Alliances.

Sec. 5. The County and Subordinate Alliances shall elect the same officers as the State Alliance, to hold office for same length of time, except that the entire Executive Committee shall be elected each year. That officers and members of standing committees to be considered active members of the County Alliance, and shall have the right to speak on all questions coming before that body, just as allowed other members, provided the County Alliance so elect.

Sec. 6. Delegates from a majority of the counties shall constitute a quorum of the State Alliance. Delegates from one-fourth of the Subordinate Alliances a quorum of the County Alliance. Three members a quorum of the Subordinate Alliances, unless otherwise provided in their By-Laws. In the absence of a quorum at any meeting, the presiding officers may announce a recess for such time as may be desirable, not to exceed twenty-four hours.

Sec. 7. The election shall be by ballot when more than one name is proposed, and a majority of the votes cast shall decide the same.

Sec. 8. Delegates to the State Alliance shall be elected at the July session of the County Alliance and shall hold office for twelve months. Delegates to the County Alliances at the first meeting of the Subordinate Alliances in December, March, June and September. Officers of Subordinate Alliances at the first meeting in June of each year or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Sec. 9. The State Alliance shall meet annually on the second Tuesday in August, at 12 o'clock m., at such place as may be determined by the State Executive Committee. County Alliances shall meet on the second Thursday in January, April, July, and October. But to suit the conveniences of the State Lecturer, the time of the county meetings may be altered, within the range of the first twenty days of the months named by the State President, Executive Committee, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Lecturer, a majority concurring therein, in order to carry out the purpose in view in the division of the State into Lecture Districts, under Art. I, Sec. 10. Subordinate Alliances shall meet at least once a month. The President of the State Alliance may call a meeting on application of the Presidents of one-fourth of the County Alliances. The President of a County Alliance on application of the Presidents of five Subordinate Alliances. The Presidents of a Subordinate Alliance on the application or five members.

Sec. 11. Each County and Subordinate Alliance may form their Constitution and By-Laws in conformity to the State Alliance.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of each County Lecturer to furnish quarterly, to the State Lecturer, a statement as to the condition of the County Alliance, and to notify the State Lecturer if his services are desired, and what provisions the county will make as compensation for the State Lecturer's services.

## ARTICLE II.

### DUTY OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. The duties of the President shall be those belonging to presiding officers, and he shall inspect the ballot-box and announce the results, conduct initiations, expound the secret work, and open and close the Alliance according to the ritual.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform his duties. In case of a vacancy in the office of President and Vice-President, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall perform the duties of the office for the remainder of the term, and until the new President is elected and qualified. In case of absence of the President and Vice-President at any meeting, the Alliance can elect temporarily, a presiding officer for that session by acclamation. In case of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the President until the next regular meeting of the State Alliance, which shall elect to fill the vacancy.

Sec. 3. The duty of the Secretary of the State Alliance shall be to keep a record of the proceedings of the State Alliance, conduct its correspondence, keep a roll of its members, to receive all money of the Alliance and pay it over monthly to the Treasurer and take his receipt for the same; to read all communications, reports and petitions in open Alliance when necessary, affix the seal of the Alliance to all documents requiring the same, to prepare for publication a copy of the proceedings of each annual or called session immediately after adjournment, to distribute the semi-annual pass-word to the Secretary or President of each Subordinate Alliance, who shall give it to the members of his Alliance; and this pass-word shall be given in no other manner: Provided, where no County Alliance has been formed the pass-word shall be given to the Secretary or President of the Subordinate Alliance in each county. He shall have charge of the seal, books and papers of the State Alliance; his books shall at all time be open to the inspection of the President, Executive Committee, or any other committee appointed by the President to inspect the same; he shall keep a correct account between the State and County Alliance: He shall furnish the Secretary of each County Alliance with a blank book properly ruled, with suitable column heads for classifying and recording the contents of the reports from Subordinate Alliances; also suitable blanks for making reports to his office, and to the Chairman of the Executive Committee; and a supply of blanks for the Secretary of each Subordinate Alliance report to County Alliances; he shall also make a list of all officers, standing and special committees of the State Alliance, with name and postoffice address, which list shall be a part of the printed proceedings of the State Alliance.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of each Subordinate Alliance shall, on the first day of January, April, July and October, furnish their County Secretaries and Chairmen of Executive Committees with

a list of the number of all male members over twenty-one years of age, also those under twenty-one years of age, also the number of females, and other statistics required of him by the County Secretary, and shall accompany the same with the fees and dues due the County Alliance.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of each County Alliance shall classify and record the reports from the various Subordinate Alliances in his county, and shall make a report of the same quarter in triplicate, one copy to be sent to the Secretary of the State Alliance, one copy to the Chairman of the State Executive Committee by the 30th of January, April, July and October, and one copy retained by the County Alliance.

Sec. 6. When a Subordinate Alliance shall fail to make its report to the County Alliance, as specified in Section four of this Article, it shall not be allowed representation, and if it shall continue in neglect of this duty and not send its reports and dues for twelve months, it shall stand suspended.

Sec. 7. When the County Alliance shall fail to make its reports to the State Alliance as specified in Section five of this Article, it shall not be allowed representation, and when in arrears for more than one month, the Secretary of the State Alliance shall notify the President of such County Alliance, and he shall investigate the matter and report to the State Secretary the reason for such delay, and if it shall continue in neglect of that duty and not send its reports and dues within twelve months, it shall stand suspended. It shall be the duty of the State Alliance to notify such defaulting Alliances of their suspension and the cause thereof. The Secretary of the State Alliance shall exchange copies of the proceedings of each session of the Alliance with the Secretary of each State Alliance, and bind the reports so received with the proceedings of this Alliance in a book, to be the property of the State Alliance. He shall also furnish a copy of the proceedings of the State Alliance to the Secretary and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.

Sec. 8. The Treasurer's duty shall be to receive all money from the Secretary, and pay it out on a warrant from the Secretary, approved by the President. He shall file with the Executive Committee a bond for double the amount of money that is likely to pass through his hands.

Sec. 9. The Chaplain's duty shall be to conduct the religious exercises of the Alliance; to officiate at the funeral service on the death of a member of the Order.

Sec. 10. The Lecturer's duty shall be, at each meeting to deliver or read a short address on some topic of interest to the Order; and in his absence, the Steward, who is Assistant Lecturer, shall take his place.

Sec. 11. The duty of the Doorkeeper and his Assistant shall be to guard the door, to take up the word, to see that all are properly clothed, to have charge of the property of the Alliance, and to keep the house in order.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to assist the President in preserving order while the body is in session, to see that the members, at the sound of the gavel, take seats and cease talking.

Sec. 13. If at any time after the Alliance is called to order by the President, a member shall refuse to comply with the foregoing section, or in any way disturb the business of this body, he shall, after the second offence during the same day, be reported to the President, who shall publicly reprimand said brother, and if reported the second time during the day, he shall be expelled from the house for that day.

Sec. 14. He shall see that the orders of the President are obeyed; carry all papers or messages from the President to other officers of this body, as he may be directed.

Sec. 15. He may have the privilege of appointing one or more assistants to assist him in performing his duties, with the advice and consent of the President.

Sec. 16. He shall keep a sufficient supply of water for the use of the body, and look after the general comfort of the body.

Sec. 17. He shall be the custodian of all mail matter, and see that it is distributed to the members.

Sec. 18. All expenses incurred in carrying out these duties shall be paid by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Farmers' State Alliance, and said account must be itemized and approved by the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE III.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. No person shall be admitted as a member unless he has been a citizen of the State of North Carolina for six months past, and not then unless he be a farmer, farm laborer, fisherman, mechanic (provided he be not a resident of a town of more than 3,000 inhabitants, under such restrictions as each County Alliance may for its own territory deem wise), country physician, or minister of the gospel whose work is mainly in the country, or editor of a strictly agricultural paper, be of good moral character, believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, be of industrious habits, is a white person, and over the age of sixteen years. Further, when any member of the Subordinate Alliance shall engage in any occupation which would render him ineligible before initiation, said member shall at once be dismissed from the Alliance, and furnished by the Secretary with a written statement of the cause of his dismissal: Provided, that the above shall not apply to the members who may be selected to buy and sell as merchants under the supervision of the Alliance: Provided, that the Cherokee Indians in the counties of Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain may be received (when qualified) as members of the Order if they are pure Indian blood and not less than half white: Provide, further, Croatan Indians in this State may be received on the same conditions.

Sec. 2. If any person seemingly qualified for membership under section one of this Article, shall send in his application, and it shall be shown to the Committee of Investigation that he has other interests that do not harmonize with the interests of the Order, they shall report adversely to his admission, and make a statement of the facts in the case, and the Secretary shall inform the applicant of the causes of his ineligibility.

Sec. 3. No member shall be admitted to membership in more than one Alliance at one time.

Sec. 4. There shall not be any political or religious tests for membership.

Sec. 5. Females over sixteen years of age may, when qualified under section 1, become members of this Order.

## ARTICLE IV.

### FEES AND DUES.

Section 1. All fees and dues in the Subordinate Alliance are due and payable quarterly in advance. No member who has not paid his dues in advance shall be entitled to the new pass-words. Members in arrears for dues for three months shall stand suspended without any action of the Alliance, but they shall immediately become members of good standing by paying one quarter's dues on approval of a two-thirds vote of the Sub-Alliance. If such dues remain unpaid for six months, such membership shall stand expelled.

Sec. 2. The initiation fee of males shall be fifty cents and the dues twenty-five cents a quarter. Females shall be exempt from initiation fees, but "may, at their own election," pay dues to the amount of five cents each quarter, all of which shall be sent to the Secretary of the State Alliance. Such females as elect to pay dues shall be entitled to representation as males.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Subordinate Alliance shall send with his quarterly report to the County Alliance, twenty-five cents for each male member initiated during the quarter, and fifteen cents dues for each male member of his Alliance reported for the quarter, and five cents for each female who has elected to pay her dues. But if no County organization exists, the Secretary of Subordinate Alliance shall send to the Secretary of the State Alliance the same fees and dues that would have been sent to the County Secretary, and is allowed representation in State Alliance. The Secretary of the County Alliance shall send with his quarterly report to the Secretary of the State Alliance fifteen cents for each male member initiated in his county reported in good standing for the previous said quarterly term, and ten cents dues for each male member in his county reported in good standing for the said quarterly term, and five cents for each female member whose dues have been sent in from Sub-Alliance. That any County or Sub-Alliance at its option may tax its females and have representation accordingly.

Sec. 4. The charter of Subordinate Alliance shall be five dollars,

which shall be paid by the Subordinate Alliance at the time of organization. The organizing officer shall receive for his services for organizing each Alliance the sum of five dollars, and for organizing County Alliance twelve dollars: Provided, that the amount, if any advanced, may be retained in the Alliance.

Sec. 5. Any Subordinate Alliance may, by a two-thirds vote of all its members in good standing, lay an assessment on each member not to exceed twenty-five cents per quarter.

## ARTICLE V.

### APPLICATIONS AND INITIATIONS.

Section 1. Any person wishing to become a member of a Subordinate Alliance shall offer an application at a stated meeting of the nearest Subordinate Alliance, stating age, occupation and place of residence, the application to be accompanied by the initiation fee, and the application to be recommended by two members in good standing, and the application shall lie over from one state meeting until the next for ballot.

Sec. 2. When an application is received, the President shall appoint a committee of three to investigate the character of the applicant and report at the next stated meeting; on report of committee the ballot on his petition shall be taken, and if clear, he shall be declared elected; if one black ball shall appear, the President shall immediately order the ballot taken again, in order to ascertain if there be a mistake; if one back ball shall again appear, the President shall announce that the ballot will again be taken at the next stated meeting, during which time it shall be the duty of the person casting the black ball to impart to the President personally his reason for so doing; at the time of taking the final ballot the President shall state to the Alliance the reason why the black ball appeared, carefully concealing the name of the brother who cast it (and always concealing the same): Provided, however, if there shall be no cause given to the President by the next regular meeting, the President shall declare th candidate elected without further ballot, but if the ballot should be taken again, and if only one black ball should appear, the candidate shall be declared elected; if rejected, the Secretary will notify him in writing and refund the initiation fee.

Sec. 3. When an applicant is elected, he shall be initiated within four stated meetings, if not providentially hindered; otherwise, he shall stand as an excluded member.

Sec. 4. A petition cannot be withdrawn after it has been received, without the consent of the Alliance.

Sec. 5. The petition of any one rejected shall not again be received until the expiration of six months.

Sec. 6. Any member clear of the books may make application for a dimit or withdrawal card, and if no charges are preferred against him or her, the Secretary shall issue his dimit or card.

Sec. 7. Any member holding a dimit or card, wishing to affiliate with any Alliance, shall present a written petition, accompanied

by the dimit and all dues that have accrued since its date, and upon a two-thirds vote in favor of applicant, he shall be declared elected. If the dimit is six months old he shall come in only as a new member.

Sec. 8. All dimits shall be addressed to some definite Subordinate Alliance, and upon reception of person dimitted, the Alliance receiving shall notify the Alliance dimitting. All persons not so reported in six months shall be marked as dropped.

Sec. 9. Sub-Alliances that have forfeited or surrendered their charters may be reorganized by making application to the Secretary of the State Alliance, which application shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty cents for every member who signs such application. On receipt of such application accompanied by the fees, the Secretary shall forward to the Sub-Alliance a duplicate of their old or a new charter: Provided, that none but those who were in good standing at the time of the surrender of the charter and are still according to Section 1, Article 3, of the Constitution, shall be accepted: Provided, however, that not less than five members make application.

## ARTICLE VI.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER—ARBITRATION OF DIFFERENCES.

Section 1. Each Subordinate and County Alliance shall appoint a committee of three on the "Good of the Order." This committee shall be a board for the arbitration of difference of any nature that may exist between members of said Alliance.

Sec. 2. It is deemed contrary to the spirit of the Order for brothers to go to law with each other, therefore it is earnestly recommended when pecuniary or other differences arise between members, that they settle them amicably among themselves; failing to do so, that they leave the matter to the Board of Arbitration, provided none of said board are disqualified by interest or relationship in favor of or against the contending parties. If this be the case, a new board, or any member of it, may be appointed by the Alliance for the purpose of adjusting the difficulty. But if this fails, then the courts of law may be resorted to in settlement of the matter.

Sec. 3. When any officer or member shall be guilty of conduct unbecoming an Allianceman, or when personal differences shall exist between members, and after reasonable efforts, cannot be amicably adjusted, an officer may be impeached, and a member reprimanded, suspended or expelled; charges and specifications in writing may be preferred by any member at a stated meeting of the Board of Arbitration, and when charges are perferred, a copy of the charges and specifications shall be furnished by the Lecturer to the party charged. The Chairman of the Board shall notify the parties at variance in writing, of the time and place at which they will take, in writing, all testimony of persons not members of the Alliance, and report the same at the next meeting of the Board, and upon the report and such other testimony as

may be had in the Alliance, the Board shall proceed at once in the trial, and the Alliance inflicts such punishment on either or both of the parties as it may determine.

Sec. 4. All trials of the officers and members of the Subordinate Alliance shall be by Board of the Subordinate Alliance; all trials of the officers or members of the County Alliance shall be by the Board of County Alliance; all trials of officers or members of the State Alliance shall be by the Judiciary Committee of the State Alliance; all appeals from the Board of the Subordinate Alliance shall be to the Board of the County Alliance; all appeals from the County Alliance shall be to the Board of Judiciary of the State Alliance.

Sec. 5. All parties on trial for any offense shall have the right to defend themselves in person or by proxy. The Lecturer shall conduct the prosecution, and shall have the right to close, after which the decision shall be rendered determining the punishment, either by expulsion, suspension or reprimand by the Board.

Sec. 6. In case of an appeal, all the proceedings in the trial, with the testimony properly transcribed from the records, shall be transmitted to the next meeting of the County, State or National Board, as the case may be, with the signatures of the Board and Lecturer. Whenever a person is convicted in a Subordinate Alliance, and an appeal is taken, the Lecturer of the Subordinate Alliance may still assist as prosecuting attorney, if deemed necessary.

Sec. 7. Any member suspended on charges can be reinstated only by two-thirds vote, after one month's notice on application in open Alliance at a state meeting.

Sec. 8. Any member expelled can be reinstated only by application, as in the preceding section, and the same ballot required as on petition for membership into the Order.

Sec. 9. The President of the State Alliance shall, at each annual session, appoint a Judiciary Committee of three members, who shall consider and determine all questions of organic or statutory law coming up on appeals during vacation, and all other questions submitted to it by the State Alliance while in session. It shall keep a record of its decisions in a book to be furnished for the purpose, and report to each session of the State Alliance.

## ARTICLE VII.

### DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 1. There shall be elected at each annual meeting of the State Alliance one Executive Committeeman to hold five years, whose duty, with the four holding over, shall be to examine the books of the Secretary-Treasurer, State Business Agent and Trustee of the Business Agency Fund, and approve the same; they shall audit all claims, and if allowed, the Secretary shall draw his warrant on the Treasurer for the amount so allowed, and all warrants drawn on the Treasurer shall be signed by the Secretary and approved by the President.

Sec. 2. They shall supervise suitable bonds for the Secretary-Treasurer, Business Agent and Trustee of the Business Agency Fund, and approve the same; they shall audit all claims, and if allowed, the Secretary shall draw his warrant on the Treasurer for the amount so allowed, and all warrants drawn on the Treasurer shall be signed by the Secretary and approved by the President.

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee shall have power to prepare sutiable bonds for Secretary-Treasurer, State Business Agent and Trustee of the Business Agency Fund, and approve the same, and to increase, diminish or cancel said bonds; to dismiss and appoint a new Business Agent, when the good of the Alliance demands, by reason of inefficiency, or failure on the part of the Agent to perform his duties; and to affix his salary, not to exceed $1,500 per annum, including clerk hire. The bonds of the County and Subordinate Alliance Business Agents shall be approved by the Executive Committee, who shall exercise the same power over the Agents as are exercised by the State Executive Committee over the State Business Agent.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### ORGANIZATION.

Section 1. The Lecturer of the State Alliance shall superintend the organization of Alliances in the State. He shall correct all irregularities in the work, secret or otherwise. The Executive Committee of the State Alliance may appoint an Assistant Lecturer when deemed necessary.

Sec. 2. The Lecturers and Steward shall report monthly to the Secretary of the State Alliance the number of Alliances organized and the work performed by them.

Sec. 3. The Lecturer of a County Alliance shall be Organizer in his county.

Sec. 4. All officers of the State Alliance are authorized to organize Alliances, but when they are salaried officers, the fee shall be paid into the treasury of the State Alliance, who shall issue a charter attested by the Secretary to each regularly organized Alliance.

Sec. 5. No Alliance shall be organized in less than three miles (direct line) of another Alliance in same county, unless such Alliance furnishes the organizing officer a written permit duly attested, of action of all such Alliances consenting to its organization, which permit shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the State Alliance, with application for a charter; and all such organizations otherwise made shall be void.

Sec. 6. Whenever an Alliance shall become defunct, any member in good standing belonging to said defunct Alliance may, in three months, join an Alliance within his reach without being required to pay a fee: Provided, however, each Subordinate Alliance shall be judge of its own membership.

Sec. 7. Whenever an Alliance becomes so large as to become unwieldly, it may, by two-thirds vote, divide and form two Alliances; and on petition of said Alliances, under seal, to the President of the State Alliance, he will grant a charter for a new Alliance. Whenever two or more Alliances may deem it best for the good of the Order, they may consolidate. Subordinate Alliances may determine their name. Any member dimitted from a Subordinate Alliance shall be under supervision of the Subordinate Alliance from which he is dimitted so long as he remains in its jurisdiction, and he shall not be allowed to sit in open Alliance after the quarter expires in which he obtained his dimit.

## ARTICLE IX.

### UNFAITHFULNESS TO THE ORDER.

Section 1. Any member who may hereafter disclose any of the workings of the Order, or who may impart the pass-word of the Order knowingly to any one not entitled to the same, or shall disclose any of the secrets pertaining to the business of the Order, shall, on conviction thereof, be immediately expelled by the body, and shall not be eligible to membership thereafter.

Sec. 2. A member who abuses or denounces the Alliance, and desires to withdraw shall not be granted a dimit or withdrawal card, but shall be suspended or expelled, and not be permitted to withdraw.

## ARTICLE X.

### SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND MILEAGE AND PER DIEM OF MEMBERS.

Section 1. The President of the State Alliance shall be paid a salary of $2.00 per day (with necessary postage, stationery and traveling expenses) when engaged in Alliance work, and for what lecturing may, in his and the judgment of the Executive Committee, be necessary for him to do.

Sec. 2. The annual salary of the Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent combined, of the State Alliance. shall not exceed $1,000 per year and use of dwelling, farm, barn and necessary outhouses free from rent; $100 of same to be paid out of funds of Secretary-Treasurer's department. Said salary to be paid quarterly on warrants signed by the Secretary and approved by the President.

Sec. 3. The members of the Executive Committee of the State Alliance shall receive actual transportation expenses when traveling in discharge of their official duties, and $2.00 per diem while so actually engaged, with a reasonable amount for stationery and postage. All said sum to be paid from Treasury of the State Alliance.

## ARTICLE XI.

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Section 1. The President shall continue in office no longer than two years in succession.

Sec. 2. When a member has been convicted in a Subordinate or County Alliance, and sentence has been passed on him, an appeal to a higher tribunal shall stay execution of sentence until the appeal has been heard and the decision rendered, and until such decision has been rendered, he shall not be entitled to vote.

Sec. 3. The retiring officers of the State Alliance shall become honorary members, and shall be entitled to mileage and per diem, as other delegates for that session only.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of each Subordinate Alliance shall keep a death record of its members, showing the age, cause and time of death, and with the county and post-office address, report them to the Secretary of the Alliance.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of the State Alliance shall keep a well bound book, known as the Death Record, in which he shall keep a death record, alphabetically, showing name, age, time of death, with county and post-office address.

Sec. 6. This Constitution may be amended at any regular stated meeting of the State Alliance by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Sec. 7. This Alliance reaffirms its adoption of the Act of incorporation enacted by the Legislature of North Carolina on the 7th day of March, 1889, adopted at Fayetteville, August, 1889.

## ARTICLE XII.

### BUSINESS AGENCY FUND.

Section 1. The President of the State Alliance shall procure a charter of incorporation under the laws of this State for the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

Sec. 2. In order to conduct the commercial business of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, and to protect from loss those who may deal with the Business Agent of the same, the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance Business Agency Fund is hereby inaugurated.

Sec. 3. The Business Fund shall consist of not less than twenty-five thousand nor more than two hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of five dollars each, and half shares of two and a half dollars each, and one-fifth shares at one dollar each.

### NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESS AGENCY FUND.

Raleigh, N. C., ....., 19..

$..... Received of ..... of Alliance No. ....., ..... dollars, for the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance Business Agency Fund, and he is hereby entitled to all rights and interests to be derived from such contribution.

This certificate shall be transferable, provided such transfer is made only to a member of the Alliance in good standing.

This ..... day of ....., 19...

No. .....  .....

[Seal.]  Secretary N. C. F. S. A.

Sec. 5. The Secretary shall keep in a book provided for the purpose a list of the names of those contributing to the fund, the number of the Alliance to which they belong, and the amount contributed.

Sec. 6. The Business Fund shall be managed by the Executive Committee of the State Alliance. No portion of it shall be used in the business of the Business Agency unless required to settle the contracts of the Agent made in conformity to regulations of the Executive Committee, and when any portion is to be used all money received from the cause of such shall be returned to the Fund.

Sec. 7. The fund shall be in the keeping of a Trustee, to be elected by the State Alliance at this session (August, 1888), who shall hold office for five years, term to commence November 1st after election. He shall invest not less than twenty-five thousand dollars of said fund in the bonds of North Carolina or the United States, and the remainder as he may deem best. The profits arising from said fund shall be used to pay the salary of the Trustee and all other expenses connected with said fund, and any remainder shall be used by the Executive Committee in defraying the expenses of the Business Agency.

Sec. 8. Said Trustee shall give a justified bond in the sum of $10,000 for the faithful accounting of all moneys for which he may be responsible, or any expense incurred in collecting the same on his bond. The Executive Committee shall require him to strengthen his bond at any time they deem it necessary, to such an amount as they deem sufficient: Provided, that no member of the Executive Committee shall be accepted as bondsman.

Sec. 9. Said Trustee may be removed for cause by vote of the State Alliance, and he may be suspended until the meeting of the State Alliance by the Executive Committee, approved by the President. In case of vacancy from suspension, removal, death, or any other cause, the Executive Committee, with approval of the President, shall fill such until the next regular meeting of the State Alliance.

Sec. 10. The Secretary of each Sub-Alliance shall collect all subscriptions made by members of their Alliance and forward to the Trustee, giving name of contributor, and amount contributed by each. The Trustee shall notify the Secretary of the names and amounts, and he shall forward certificates to the Secretary of the Sub-Alliance as provided in section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall turn over to the Trustee all funds belonging to the fund upon his appointment. The Secretary shall notify through the organ of the Alliance the Sub-Alliance when the Trustee's bond is accepted.

Sec. 11. The Trustee shall receive an annual salary, to be fixed

North Carolina State Library,
Raleigh,



by the Executive Committee, not to exceed $250, to be paid quarterly.

Sec. 12. In case it becomes necessary to use any of the said fund in the State Business Agency, the State Business Agent shall report to the Trustee the amount or amounts necessary, stating cause of indebtedness in each case. If the Trustee approves the same he shall forward the State Business Agent money sufficient to settle the same, but he shall pay no accounts where goods may have been sold without the State Business Agent having first received a certificate of justified bond of the Business Agent purchasing, with names of sureties, which the State Business Agent shall keep filled in his office. The State Business Agent shall immediately proceed to collect such account or accounts between the State Business Agent and the Business Agent for whom the goods are purchased, the matter shall be referred to the Trustee with the right to appeal to the Executive Committee of the State Alliance. The Trustee shall report to the Executive Committee all accounts paid on account of State Business Agent, and all losses to the fund on account of said Business Agent, which losses shall be subject to approval of Executive Committee.

Sec. 13. The Trustee shall collect all interest or other profits on said fund as it becomes due, and pay the same into the Treasury of the State Alliance.

Sec. 14. The Treasurer shall keep a separate account of it, and shall pay it out only on the salary of the Trustee, and to the Executive Committee to be used in conducting the Business Agency of the Alliance, on the warrant approved by the President.

Sec. 15. The Trustee shall report to each session of the Alliance how the fund is invested, and the vouchers for the disposition made of profits received on the fund.

Sec. 16. In case the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance should for any cause cease to exist, the money composing this fund shall revert to those contributing it.

(1) The Business Agent shall conduct the business of his office under the supervision and direction of the Executive Committee.

(2) Upon the recommendation of the State Business Agent the Executive Committee may direct that no goods shall be sold without the cash accompanying the order.

(3) The State Business Agent shall keep a record of each transaction in a book provided for the purpose, showing articles purchased or sold, price paid or received for them individually and in gross amount.

(4) Persons who are eligible shall be allowed all the benefits of our trade arrangements by paying the regular fees for entrance, and annual dues, and they may be made honorary members, having all the benefits and advantages of the Alliance, except they shall not participate in its private meetings. The recommendation was made especially for those whose church regulations preclude them from joining secret societies.

(5) The State Business Agent shall be allowed to sell to those

outside of the Alliance at an advance over Alliancemen, and pay the same taxes to the State that others doing the same business pay.

All contributions to the Business Agency Fund should be sent to W. A. Graham, Trustee, Machpelah, N. C.

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## RULES OF ORDER OF AN ALLIANCE.

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Section 1. The President shall take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the opening of the Alliance, and shall immediately call the members to order.

Sec. 2. The President shall have the general direction of the hall; he may designate any member to perform the duties of the Chair; he may preserve strict order in the proceedings of the Alliance.

Sec. 3. All committees shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise ordered by the Alliance.

Sec. 4. In all cases the member who shall first receive recognition by the Chair shall speak first, but when two or more members rise at the same time the President shall decide who shall speak first.

Sec. 5. No member shall speak more than once on the same question, nor more than ten minutes, unless by consent of the body, and shall be confined to the question under discussion, and shall avoid personalities.

Sec. 6. Any question may be discussed in open Alliance in a non-partisan and non-sectarian sense.

Sec. 7. Any member may call for a statement of the question under consideration, which may be stated by the President or Secretary.

Sec. 8. Any member may call for a division of the question. The President shall decide as to its advisability subject to appeal, as in the questions of order.

Sec. 9. Every member present when the question is put shall vote unless excused by the vote of the body.

Sec. 10. While the President is stating the question or addressing the body, no one shall walk across the hall, and while a member is speaking no one shall pass between the speaker and the Chair. No member or other person shall go to and remain at the Secretary's desk when the yeas and nays are being taken or ballot counted, except the Secretary and his assistants.

Sec. 11. All resolutions shall be made in writing and signed by the author. When such motion is made and seconded, and shall have been stated by the Chair, it is then the property of the house and cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the house.

Sec. 12. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to take a recess, to lay on the table, for

the previous question, to postpone, to amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence of each other in the order in which they are arranged.

Sec. 13. A motion to adjourn is always in order, but being decided in the negative shall not be again entertained until some motion, call or order shall take place. The motion to adjourn, take recess, to lay on the table, to take from the table, and all questions relating to the priority of business, shall be decided without debate.

Sec. 14. No motion or proposition differing from the subject under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

Sec. 15. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of order, the President shall, or any member may, call the member to order, and the member called to order shall take his seat, if required by the President, until the question of order is decided. All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair without debate, subject to appeal to the house. No member shall speak on the appeal more than once, and only five minutes, unless by leave of the body, except the party appealing may speak twice.

Sec. 16. All reports of committees shall be made in writing, and signed by such members as concur therein, and the report, with the names of the members signing the same, shall be read at the Secretary's desk by the Secretary or the member making the report without a motion.

Sec. 17. Cushing's Manual and Law of Legislative Assemblies shall be received as the rule in all cases not provided for in the foregoing rules.

# FORM OF BUSINESS

FOR

# SUB-ALLIANCES.

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1. Recording those present.
2. Reading, correcting and adopting minutes of last meeting.
3. Application for membership.
4. Report of Investigating Committee.
5. Balloting.
6. Initiation.
7. Reports of Standing Committees and their dispositions.
8. Reports of Special Committees and their dispositions.
9. Unfinished Business.
10. Business with County Alliance.
11. Is there any Member Sick or in Distress?
12. Lecturing.
13. New Business.
14. Receipts of the evening.
15. Has the Secretary anything for our State or County Organ?

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

HELD NEAR

## HILLSBORO, N. C., AUGUST 11, 12, 1903.

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Hillsboro, N. C., August 11, 1903.

The State Alliance was called to order at 12 o'clock by President Fleming, all officers being at their respective station except Chaplain Mercer. After prayer by Bro. G. W. P. Cates, who was requested to act as Chaplain, the roll was called and the following delegates representing the counties named were present:

Alamance—N. C. Garrison, Burlington, R. F. D. No. 2.
Beaufort—C. G. Waters, Pine Town.
Cumberland—Nathan Williams, Godwin.
Franklin—Robt. Cooper, Justice.
Granville—H. C. Gill, Stovall.
Guilford—G. T. Lane, Greensboro.
Harnett—R. M. Parker, Key.
Johnston—W. A. T. Durham, Kenly.
Lincoln—W. A. Graham, Machpelah.
Martin—J. O. Keel, Robertsonville.
Nash—J. H. Todd, Spring Hope.
Orange—J. A. Sykes, Joppa.
Rowan—T. P. Johnston, Salisbury.
Sampson—A. F. Howard, Salemburg.
Vance—I. M. Green, Henderson, R. F. D. No. 1.
Wake—C. W. Burkett, West Raleigh.
Warren—J. H. Martin, Elberon.
Wayne—Geo. H. Smith, Aaron.
Wilson—D. L. Flowers, Taylor.

Bro. C. H. Poe was requested to act as Recording Secretary.
Bro. W. B. Fleming then read the President's Address.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' State Alliance:

Brethren:—Time with its changes has closed another year in the history of the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina. We are convened to-day for the purpose of holding the seventeenth annual session of our Order. By a retrospect of its history during its existence, and noting its struggles and the important victories won, when its membership was greater than at present, should encourage us to press forward in every department of work that concerns the general welfare, prosperity and happiness of the agricultural classes. We should remember that no organization can live long on its past. There must be something doing in the living present, something to be accomplished in the future, if there is to be life and growth. Let us work together and join hands and hearts in our best efforts to advance the interests of each other and the Order. Let us be mindful of the responsibilities resting upon us as the legislators of the Alliance in the State.

I am pleased to note that our lecturers have reorganized a considerable number of Sub Alliances during the year, which has resulted in adding to our roll several County Alliances previously defunct. The reports of your Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer and Lecturer will reveal their work for the past year. Your Executive Committee will give you in their report the financial condition of the State Alliance, with other information of a general character concerning every interest of the Order. The officials of each department are expected to make such recommendations as may seem to them best for conducting the business of their respective departments. Then it will be your privilege to adopt, reject, or demand, any or all of such recommendations. Last but not least, your agent of the Business Agency Fund will tell you in his report of the handsome amount which he has keys turned upon; which is ample backing to conduct business for one hundred thousand Alliancemen on a cash basis. This should be an inducement for farmers to reorganize Sub Alliances and buy through the Business Agent at wholesale prices.

As a reminder to Alliancemen and for the information of those who are in sympathy with the organization, I have thought it advisable to mention briefly the objects and methods of the Alliance. The prime object of the Alliance is to better the condition of farmers "mentally, morally and financially;" to educate and commingle with those of the same calling, to the end that country life may become less lonely and more social, and to assist the weak with the strength of the strong.

The methods are of three kinds, social, business and political. The social methods are such as may be secured by meeting together and becoming better acquainted with neighbors, and a friendly exchange of ideas as to the practicable details of farm work. The business methods take a wider range and depend upon co-operation, county and State, in business efforts to secure

the highest price for produce raised for sale, and the lowest price on commodities that must be purchased. The political methods are strictly non-partisan and must ever remain so, because every candidate for membership, before taking the pledge, is assured that it will in no way conflict with his religious or political views. Farmers of all political parties are welcomed in its ranks, and we are expected to work to secure a just recognition of the rights of the argricultural classes.

The motto of the Order is: "In things essential unity, and in all things charity." These objects and aims should prevail and influence all men. But far from it. The country is influenced by many evils. The two most damaging and far-reaching are corruption in politics and the greed of the capitalists for gain. The motto of both are the same: "Might makes right—anything to win, anything to suceed." The leaders in these evils and their followers give credit to no excellence not based on success. They are making alarming progress and their number and power have increased until they have gotten so much the advantage of right, which represents the common interest and principle motive of good, that the latter is almost lost sight of. Capital combined has supremacy over the people by controlling financially the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the whole country, as well as the transportation facilities.

And shall I add, our farming interest? Yes, more greedily if possible than any other branch of industry. This has been accomplished without the penalty that should be inflicted. The people have permitted the plans devised by those who possess the spirit of might and greed to dominate legislation without formidable resistance through legislation or organization. Whenever any truly loyal citizen or leaders of influence have warned the people of increasing danger and the wreckage that would follow in many vocations, the opposition would cry "pessimist." The time has come when nearly all the people are pessimistic save those who are employed, or are in some way connected with the execution of the machinery of monopoly and political deception. Now that the chains are fastened upon the power of the people, for years to come, these forces are no longer alarmed, or give ear to the muttering of the people.

What we need in this country is a sense of individual responsibility, strengthened by organization, that recognizes the wrongness of any wrong doing that harms any one, such as exalts one person by degrading another, or does not return an equivalent for what is received, or that impoverishes one to enrich the other. To reach and practice such virtues a Christian sympathy is required that recognizes the brotherhood of man, bound by the natural ties of common humanity. If we are to ever have anything better than struggles for vantage ground, or equal rights by contending factions, such as now exist between capital and labor, such a spirit is the only agency broad enough to accomplish it. I admonish all Alliancemen to act well their part of the moral code and remember that "peace on earth and good will to men"

cannot exist in the hearts of men who draw no line between right and wrong.

There is great need of a strong farmers' organization in North Carolina. The farmers realize the fact in many particulars. Yet they, as a body, will not take hold of the advantages that are offered them. They see clearly that organization is necessary to enable them to exercise the influence in business, social and political life to which their numbers and the importance of their occupation entitle them. In seeking light along these lines they are impressed with the folly of single-handed efforts. Yet on the other hand they are confronted by many difficulties. They find the lack of education, and a large per cent are in debt and dependent upon merchants and others to help them from one crop to another. Hence, they finally conclude, that to derive benefits by joining a farmers' organization, they must each man for himself manage to get one crop to market without a prior mortgage or debt on same, and pay cash for what they buy. They forget that organization is good for one in adversity as well as in prosperity, and by co-operation all are benefitted. The financial feature is less than half of the benefits that are in reach of a good Allianceman. The social feature cannot be overestimated, and the educational feature includes the opportunity of general information, which is the only substitute in reach for lost opportunities.

The farmers are accused of many faults by their best friends who are not farmers. These friends are especially liberal and accommodating with advice, but they never advise their farmer friends to connect themselves with a farmers' organization. It is well known that, as a rule, the people who are not farmers are opposed to the farmers organizing, and their influence is not without effect in keeping the farmers scattered. Yet we find almost every class of professional men and wage-earners, from steel trust's employees to the newsboy, organized. This should convince the farmers that there are benefits to be derived through organization. The lawyers have their Bar Associations; the doctors have their State Medical Associations. Both are looking after their own business interest. We have never seen where the lawyers passed loud resolutions telling the people how to avoid litigation, or the doctors "resolute" how to keep well. Whatever service any one gets from these and other professional men, they rightly expect to pay charges fixed by co-operation. Then without any disrespect or harm to any one, it is the people's business to avoid litigation by being careful of their business interest and likewise try to keep well bodily, mentally and financially.

Remember that there are as many helps in a farmers' organization to assist each other in business as there are in organization for any other class whose profession is more pleasant and profitable, or whose hardships and burdens are greater. Then we have in this country railroad mergers, telegraph consolidations, manufacturing monopolies, and abominable trusts on nearly everything. Indeed, every interest, save that of farming, has long been

protected by mutal co-operation, and in many instances by legislation, while the farmers, the creators of a large portion of the wealth, remain comparatively at the mercy of others.

The Alliance has been an advocate of education from the beginning of its existence; may it continue to devote a liberal share of its energy and influence to the problem of improving the country schools. It is time to aid and urge the improvement of country school-houses, time to advocate the payment of better salaries and the employing of thoroughly equipped teachers. Millions are being given to colleges and universities, while the primary schools are languishing. Classical education is on a firm basis and is capable of taking care of itself by endowments and other contributions and appropriations. We should patronize and encourage the colleges whenever possible; for the average college man has great advantages over the average non-college man, if his mind is clear on the importance of work and he has a sound character and good common sense. But country people should be more concerned about primary education, for without this there cannot be higher education. They should also see that their children have the advantage of good school-houses well-furnished, good books, competent teachers an the inspiration of intelligent interest. The movement for the consolidation of rural schools, now authorized and made possible for many States, did not begin too soon and should be encouraged, wherever practicable, by all true Alliancemen. All the people should work together to give every child in their respective communities a high-school education. The man who sends his children away from home for schooling they might get in his township, is advertising the fact that he and his neighbors are lacking in ability or energy to do what they should for their children and home interest. Such men are doubly burdened; they pay taxes to support inferior schools and the greater cost of educating their children away from home.

The time has come for communities to undo their purse-strings and co-operate for the good of their children and the building up of their respective communities by establishing a centre for the intellectual and social life of widened neighborhoods. To this end it would be well for Sub Alliances to devote more time and attention to public social gatherings, picnics and township meetings under any well-arranged program. Such meetings would have great influence to promote co-operation on educational lines, and would extend the acquaintance of Alliance members and others with all the people in a considerable radius; and also in a great measure break down the unsatisfactory moral and selfish conditions that are creeping upon the people, which is the influence of the great greed and corruption heretofore mentioned.

It is clear to the mind of every intelligent farmer that with the scarcity of labor, must come intensive cropping and the use of improved implements and machinery. The ambition to own and cultivate broad acres is an American weakness. The farmers had as well be planning to draw in their acres and at the same

time double those that are cultivated by making them deeper and richer. "It has been said that increasing acres makes one a larger land-holder; improving the quality of acres by supplying their needs makes one a landlord." Twice the yield to the acre would more than thribble the profits with little more investment. When an acre is made to double its product, the investment and care have not increased in the same proportion. A hint to the wise who know better than they practice should be sufficient.

I leave the details of executing changes and improvements, that must come sooner or later, to your better judgment, according to circumstances and conditions. Every farmer should keep posted and take advantage of whatever the State offers through the Agricultural Department, that is calculated to improve his lands and stock, and cheapen the cost of production, taking care never to go largely beyond his means on the experiment and recommendations of any individual or agricultural department.

The Progressive Farmer, the Alliance organ, is doing much for the Order and should have your hearty support, not only by subscribing and extending its circulation, but members should contribute articles for its columns on every-day, practicable subjects, and give full reports of all meetings, that it may be of greater service in educating the people to the necessity of organization, and to advance agriculture and good citizenship.

Allow me to call your attention to the importance of devising some plan to have the work of reorganizing Alliances pushed with more life and activity.

In conclusion, brethren, we welcome you as representatives of the oldest, and one of the most honorable vocations of men. The work and responsibilities of this annual session rest upon you. Let peace and harmony prevail in all your deliberations, and may the desire to advance the best interest of the Alliance inspire your actions during the session.

On motion, the President's address was accepted and ordered furnished to the press for publication.

Hours of meeting were fixed as follows: Meet at 8.30 a. m., adjourn for dinner at 12.30 p. m.; reconvene at 3 p. m., adjourn at will for supper, and reassemble at 8 p. m.

The Alliance adjourned till 3 p. m.

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## Afternoon Session, August 11, 1903.

President Fleming called the Alliance to order at 3 p. m., and announced the following committees:

Demands and Resolutions—W. A. Graham, H. C. Gill, J. O. Keel, N. C. Garrison, N. Williams.

Business Agency—I. M. Green, A. F. Howard, G. H. Smith, C. G. Waters, R. M. Parker.

Lecturing—H. M. Cates, J. C. Bain, C. W. Burkett, Robt. Cooper, W. A. T. Durham, J. M. Martin.

Constitution and By-Laws—T. P. Johnston, W. A. Graham, J. H. Todd, J. A. Sykes.

Publication—C. H. Poe, D. L. Flowers, D. A. Montgomery.

Bro. J. C. Bain, of Cumberland, then submitted the Lecturer's report:

To the Officers and Members of the State Alliance:

Brethren:—About the first day of January, Bro. H. M. Cates and I met the Executive Committee at Headquarters and were instructed by them to go into the lecturing field as early as possible, and make a house-to-house canvass, that being deemed the most effective way of reaching the people.

I went to Columbus County and began work about the middle of January, and remained there about two weeks, and succeeded in reorganizing three Sub Alliances. I also visited all the working Alliances in the county. I was taken sick with "grip" about the first of February, which prevented me from engaging in further active work in the field. However, later, I visited Harnett County and did some effective work.

Brother Cates did effective work in several counties, which resulted in the reorganization of many Sub and County Alliances.

The house-to-house canvass, recommended by the Executive Committee, is, in my judgment, the most effective plan for reorganizing the Alliance.

Allow me to again urge the importance of increasing the lecture work. Its importance cannot be over-estimated. It is the foundation of all effective work. Begin the work at once and push it before the chilling blasts of winter set in.

Fraternally, J. C. BAIN, Lecturer.

Bro. H. M. Cates then made a verbal report of the work done by him in the lecture field.

Bro. T. B. Parker then read the report of the Secretary-Treasurer:

## REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER.

To the Officers and Members of the State Alliance:

As your Secretary it is my pleasure to report to you a decided advance in the spirit of reorganization of the Alliance over that of the past several years. The lecture system reinaugurated last winter has indeed proven to be the right step. The reports from Brothers Bain and Cates have been full of interest, and as a result of their labors, counties are represented here to-day that have not been before for years. It was my pleasure to be with Brother Cates at the reorganization of Franklin County Alliance, and it was an inspiring scene to see nearly a hundred enthusiastic Alliancemen representing thirteen Sub Alliances in that meeting.

Brother Cates' success in Granville, Vance and Nash was very decided. Brother Bain labored in the southern tier of counties, and reorganized several Subs there. He will tell you of these in his report, as will also Brother Cates, of the counties in which he labored.

By invitation, I visited the County Alliances of Cumberland and Columbus Counties. At both meetings the attendance was good and the enthusiasm growing. I advise that the lecture system, as inaugurated, be continued, and that the Executive Committee authorize a loan from the funds of the State Business Agency sufficiently large to push the work.

I regard this an auspicuous time for the Alliance and the outlook exceedingly encouraging.

I have conferred with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Brother Denmark, and we decided that a departure from our regular custom at the State meeting might be welcomed by the brethren, and prove not only interesting, but instructive to the brethren who come here from the different sections of the State.

We have set aside to-morrow, Wednesday, to keep "open-house," and have invited the public and speakers for the occasion. The program will be an interesting one. Addresses will be made by the following well-known gentlemen:

Prof. C. W. Burkett, of the A. and M. College, who will speak on "Agricultural Education."

Rev. Chas. E. Maddry, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Orange County—subject: "The Rural Schools of North Carolina."

Hon. E. L. Daughtridge, of Edgecombe County, who will speak on the "Need and Importance of Organization Among the Farmers."

Dr. B. W. Kilgore, State Chemist, who will speak on "Restoration and Maintenance of Soil Fertility."

Dr. F. L. Stevens, of the A. and M. College, will discuss "Plant Improvement."

We will also have addresses by Bros. H. M. Cates, W. A. Graham, and others, whose talks I am sure will be appreciated by this body and the visitors.

We are assured the attendance will be large if the weather is favorable.

We are hoping this feature will be so productive of good that its continuance at the State meeting will be demanded and looked forward to with increased interest.

We should all feel encouraged, and when we return to our homes put into successful operation some of the many helpful suggestions that I am sure will be made at this meeting, for the reorganization of the Alliance in every section of the State.

Fraternally,

T. B. PARKER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

P. S.—My financial report is in the hands of the Executive Committee and will be embraced in their report.

Brother Parker next submitted the Business Agent's Report:

## REPORT OF BUSINESS AGENT.

To the Officers and Members of the State Alliance:

Brethren:—It is with pleasure that at this meeting of the State Alliance I am permitted to report to you more business, except in shoes, through the Agency within the past year, than for any year, save one, since I have been your State Business Agent.

I attribute the increase in business done through the Agency to two causes, to-wit: Better prices for produce sold by the farmers and removal of the office to Raleigh, where it is in close touch with the business world. I cannot say how much of this increase is due to either cause, but nevertheless am gratified to report it. However, it is but just to say the increase in business has not met the increased expense, supposing the business done, if the office had remained here, to be the same it was last year. Had the office remained here it might have been more or it might have been less than last year, I cannot say, neither can I say what influence, if any, the office being in Raleigh has had in the increased interest manifested in the Alliance in many sections. I leave this question for the Executive Committee and this body to pass upon.

I feel that in another year business will be better than during this year, for as new Alliances are reorganizing—as they surely will be unless you refuse to send lecturers into the field—interest in the Agency will increase and new patrons will be added. If the brethren who are here will, when they go to their homes, speak to the brethren of the advantages of the Agency, they may be helpful in increasing its usefulness. Its effectiveness in helping the brethren cannot be utilized except as they take hold of it.

Wishing you a profitable meeting, and hoping this is the beginning of a brighter day for the Alliance, I am,

Fraternally, T. B. PARKER,
State Business Agent.

Maj. W. A. Graham then offered the report of the Trustee of the Business Agency Fund:

## REPORT OF TRUSTEE OF BUSINESS AGENCY FUND.

1903. August 1st:

| | |
|---|---|
| Fund consists of $9,100 in North Carolina 4 per cent bonds | $9,100.00 |
| Mortgage on property at Headquarters | 10,218.00 |
| Total face value | 19,318.00 |

Earnings of Fund.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1903. August 1st: | |
| On hand—$250 in North Carolina 4 per cent bonds... | $250.00 |
| Cash and loan ..... | 208.84 |
| Jan. 1. Coupons ..... | 187.00 |
| March 1. Interest ..... | 3.00 |
| July 1. Coupons ..... | 189.00 |
| Total ..... | 837.84 |

Expenses.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To State Alliance ..... | $13.15 | |
| Postage and stationery ..... | .90 | |
| Traveling ..... | 5.00 | |
| Salary ..... | 250.00 | |
| $100 in North Carolina 4 per cent bonds.... | 104.00 | |
| | | $373.05 |
| Total ..... | | $564.79 |

On hand as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $350 in North Carolina 4 per cent bonds..... | $350.00 | |
| Loan ..... | 100.00 | |
| Cash ..... | 114.79 | |
| | | $564.79 |

Passed receipts with State Business Agent for $408.72, interest due on mortgage January 1, 1903. No money passed.

I recommend that the $350.00 North Carolina 4 per cent bonds of earnings be applied to the mortgage on Headquarters, and that the Trustee be directed to so invest and apply receipts from the earnings as they accumulate above expenses.

I also recommend that the Trustee's term of office begin November 1, after election. It is not advisable that the funds should be brought to the session of the Alliance. In case of re-election, he cannot arrange his bond at this time, nor can his successor, if a change be made. This gives a quarter to arrange matters, as was found expedient and done in the case of the State Business Agent early in our history.

Respectfully submitted, W. A. GRAHAM,
Trustee Business Agency Fund.

August 1, 1903.

Secretary Parker then read a letter from Bro. D. N. Hunt, of Granville County, on the tobacco situation.

Bro. John Graham offered a resolution, which was amended by Bro. C. H. Poe. The amendment was accepted, and after discussion by brethren T. B. Parker, John Graham, I. W. Green, J. C. Bain, T. N. Allen, H. M. Cates, J. M. Mitchell, T. P. Johnston, and others, was unanimously adopted as follows:

Whereas, The present low prices of leaf tobacco seriously concerns the financial condition of many of our brethren; now be it resolved by the North Carolina State Farmers' Alliance in Annual Convention assembled at Hillsboro:

First. That according to our judgment there is no cause for the great fall in the price of leaf tobacco other than the consolidation of the American Tobacco Company and the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain.

Second. That we do hereby respectfully petition Governor Charles B. Aycock, through joint action with the Executives of South Carolina and Virginia, to use his best endeavors to induce the President of the United States to enforce any law in existence for the suppression of monopoly in the purchase of tobacco.

Third. That in our judgment, with the present outlook for high-priced cotton, the American Tobacco Company would not put the price of leaf tobacco below the cost of production at this time, but for the deliberate determination on its part to force warehousemen and independent buyers to sell at a ruinous sacrifice their present holdings of tobacco.

Fourth. That the President of this body appoint a committee, with authority to join with the Tobacco Growers' Association and all other parties interested in calling a convention of tobacco farmers to take action in regard to the decline in the price of leaf tobacco.

Fifth. That we recommend united action on the part of our farmers, merchants of all classes, warehousemen, bankers and capitalists to protect this leading agricultural industry from destruction at the hands of this giant monopoly and trust.

Sixth. That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to his Excellency, Governor Charles B. Aycock, for his consideration, and that copies be furnished the press of the State for publication.

As directed by Section 4, President Fleming then appointed the following committee to confer and act with other tobacco growers: John Graham, T. B. Parker, I. M. Green, J. E. Person.

Maj. W. A. Graham offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Section 7 of the Business Agency Fund article of the Constitution be amended by adding after the word years, in line three: "Term to commence November 1 after election."

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, which made a favorable report, and was adopted.

Bro. J. C. Bain reported the formation of a voluntary insurance association in Cumberland County Alliance, each member paying $1.00 on the death of any member.

Bro. T. B. Parker offered the following resolution, which was adopted after discussion by brethren T. B. Parker, W. A. Graham, J. C. Bain, A. F. Howard and John Graham:

Resolved, That the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina feels that it should condemn the action of the last Legislature in refusing to make an appropriation; and refusing the credit of the State in procuring a loan for the building of an Agricultural building at the A. and M. College at Raleigh, N. C.

2. We further condemn the action of that Legislature in requiring the Board of Agriculture to appropriate the sum of $12,000 to complete the unfinished buildings now in course of erection at said college before they were permitted to take money from the funds (a tax on farmers only) to build said agricultural building.

3. That we ask the next Legislature to right the wrong and injustice wrought upon the farmers of the State in the above particular by appropriating from the general funds of the State a sum sufficient to erect said building.

T. B. PARKER.

Adjournment until 8.30 p. m.

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## Night Session.

The Alliance was called to order at 8.30 by President Fleming.

On motion, the election of officers for the ensuing year was set for to-morrow, Wednesday, night at 8.30.

Brief talks were made by Maj. W. A. Graham, R. H. Lane, J. C. Bain, H. C. Gill, J. M. Mitchell, I. M. Green, and others.

J. M. Mitchell offered the following resolution, and the rules being suspended, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we, as a body, do return our thanks to the different railroads for their reduced rates to and from the State Alliance. J. M. MITCHELL.

A paper on agricultural problems was read by T. N. Allen, of Orange County.

The Alliance then adjourned until 8.30 Wednesday morning.

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## SECOND DAY.

Hillsboro, N. C., August 12, 1903.

The Alliance assembled at 8.30, and was called to order by President Fleming.

The following committee was announced to consider the matter of calling a convention of tobacco farmers: John Graham, T. B. Parker, I. M. Green and J. E. Person.

Dr. C. W. Burkett, Chairman of the Committee on Lecturing, made a report recommending the adoption of the suggestions made in Secretary Parker's report, notably this: "I advise that the lecture system, as inaugurated, be continued, and that a loan from the profits of the State Business Agency be made sufficiently large to push the work."

After discussion by Dr. Burkett, J. M. Mitchell, J. C. Bain, J. W. Denmark, W. A. Graham, C. H. Poe, H. C. Gill, T. B. Parker, the recommendation was unanimously adopted.

The Alliance adjourned at 9.40 to meet in open session at 11 a. m.

At 11 a. m., Bro. W. A. Graham took the chair. After the choir rendered "America," Rev. C. E. Maddry led in prayer. Major Graham then introduced the first speaker, Dr. Chas. W. Burkett, who spoke on "Agricultural Education."

Rev. Chas. E. Maddry then made an interesting address on "The Rural Schools of North Carolina."

Hon. E. L. Daughtridge was next called. "The Need and Importance of Organization" was the subject of his paper.

Dr. B. W. Kilgore followed in an instructive address, "Restoring and Maintaining Soil Fertility."

Recess for dinner.

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## Open Session—Afternoon.

After announcement by Mr. E. L. Daughtridge in regard to the meeting at Rocky Mount of the Farmers' Protective Association, Dr. E. L. Stevens, of the A. and M. College, discussed "Plant Improvement." Maj. W. A. Graham and H. M. Cates followed in brief talks on Alliance and agricultural topics.

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## Night Session, August 12, 1903.

The Alliance reassembled at 8 p. m. Bro. John Graham, in behalf of the Executive Committee, presented the following report:

To the Officers and Members of the North Carolina State Farmers' Alliance.

Brethren:—Your Executive Committee respectively report:—

That we have examined the books of the Secretary-Treasurer and find them correct. The books of the State Business Agent have been carefully examined and found correct. The report of

the Trustee of the Business Agency Fund has been examined, found correct and approved.

We respectfully submit the following statement of our present financial condition:

BUSINESS AGENT'S DEPARTMENT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Assets on hand August 1, 1903 | $5,652.26 |
| Assets on hand August 1, 1902 | 4,810.47 |
| Net gain | 841.79 |

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Assets on hand August 1, 1903 | $54.05 |
| Assets on hand August 1, 1902 | 163.26 |
| Loss | 109.21 |

TRUSTEE'S DEPARTMENT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Assets on hand August 1, 1903 | $19,882.79 |
| Assets on hand August 1, 1902 | 19,776.84 |
| Net gain | 105.95 |
| Total assets, all departments, August 1, 1903 | $25,589.10 |
| Total assets, all departments, August 1, 1902 | 24,750.57 |
| Total net gain | 838.53 |

The above statement is abridged from the reports of the various officers, made for the years 1902 and 1903.

The assets of the Business Agency consist of:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash in bank | | $2,765.01 |
| Due from Durham Fertilizer Company (estimated) | | 1,508.09 |
| Shares, etc. ($776.19 less $346.30) | | 429.89 |
| Bills receivable | | 1,476.56 |
| Total | | 6,179.55 |

LIABILITIES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bills payable | $446.96 | |
| Balance due on $1.00 plan | 80.33 | |
| | | $527.29 |
| Net balance in the hands of the State Business Agent of his own funds | | 5,652.26 |
| Net gain for the year ending August 1, 1903 | | $841.79 |

Your committee respectfully urge the brethren to make as much use of the Business Agency as possible. The receipts from the

royalty on the Alliance brands of fertilizers amount to $2,969.67. This sum is counted in the receipts of the Business Agent.

One hundred and sixty dollars have been received during the year from the sale of one safe at $35.00, and $125.00 paid on purchase price of boiler sold for $500.00.

We recommend that the expense incurred at Headquarters by invited speakers and by officers and delegates, on account of board, be paid out of funds in the hands of the State Business Agent.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. DENMARK,
Chairman.

Report adopted; recommendations adopted.

Committee on Business Agency reported in favor of adopting the Business Agency's report. Report received and adopted.

Bro. C. H. Poe offered the following resolution:

"Whereas, To insure continued interest in Sub Alliances, it is necessary to stress the social and educational features of the Order; therefore be it

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend that our Alliances make more earnest efforts to increase their membership among our women and young people, and to improve the social features of the monthly meetings.

Second. That a committee, consisting of Dr. C. W. Burkett, Dr. F. L. Stevens and T. B. Parker, is hereby appointed to suggest topics for Sub Alliance meetings, and to suggest ways of maintaining interest and enthusiasm.

On motion, C. H. Poe was added to the Program Committee, and the resolution, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

The invitation of Dr. Burkett, inviting the State Alliance to meet at the A. and M. College at their meeting in August, 1904, was read, and the following resolution, by J. C. Bain, was adopted:

Resolved, That we instruct our Secretary to express to Dr. Burkett our appreciation of his invitation to meet next year at the A. and M. College, but regret that we cannot accept for 1904.

Bro. A. F. Howard offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we instruct the Secretary, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, to prepare suitable program for the second day of the 1904 session of the N. C. F. A.

The hour for the election of officers having arrived, balloting resulted as follows:

President—John Graham, Warrenton, Warren County.

Vice-President—H. D. Egerton, Ingleside, Franklin County.

Seretary-Treasurer and State Business Agent—T. B. Parker, Hillsboro, Orange County.

Lecturer—H. M. Cates, Swepsonville, Alamance County.

Chaplain—G. W. P. Cates, Rock Spring, Orange County.

Stewart—J. C. Bain, Wade, Cumberland County.

Doorkeeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro, Guilford County.

Assistant Doorkeeper—R. H. Lane, Aurora, Beaufort County.

Trustee for Business Agency Fund for period of five years—W. A. Graham, Machpelah, Lincoln County.

Member of the Executive Committee for period of five years—T. J. Oldham, Moore, Orange County.

The following resolution, offered by W. A. Graham, was adopted by a unanimously rising vote:

Resolved, That this Alliance tenders its hearty thanks to Sister Parker and her daughter for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained us, and that the Executive Committee be instructed to present her a memorial to the value of $10.00, as a token of regard from the Alliance.

Bro. J. M. Mitchell presented the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we, as a State Order, do return thanks for the hearty support and co-operation of The Progressive Farmer, and still endorse it as our official organ.

The incoming President announced the following Judiciary Committee: J. K. Hughes, of Orange County; J. M. Mitchell, of Wayne County; T. P. Johntson, of Rowan County.

The rules being suspended, the following resolution, by F. L. Stevens, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to procure and publish in all papers possible a list of all non-trust tobacco manufacturers.

The following resolution by Bro. Robt. Cooper was passed:

Resolved, That we, the delegates of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, wish to express our appreciation of the faithful and efficient services from retiring officers.

The delegates then joined in singing "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow," and, after prayer by Chaplain Cates, the State Alliance adjourned until August, 1904.

CLARENCE H. POE,
Recording Secretary.

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GRAHAM, N. C., Sept. 12, 1902.

EDITOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

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